

Developing a Local Authority Plant Biosecurity Policy

- Why
- What are the changes
- Raising the profile

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Why was a plant biosecurity policy needed?

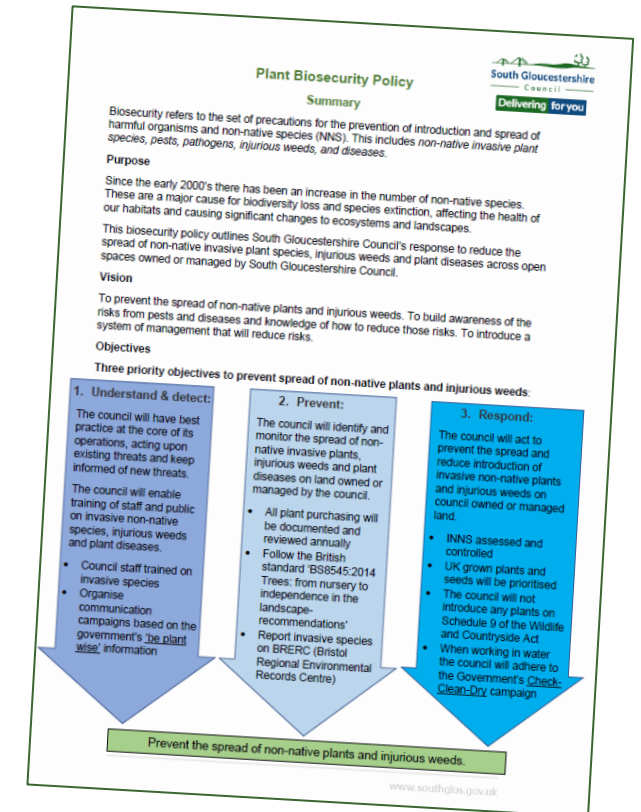


- Climate and Nature Emergency declared in July 2019
- Green Infrastructure Strategy 2021
- Increased awareness of invasive and non-native plants
- Costly works
- Volunteer time



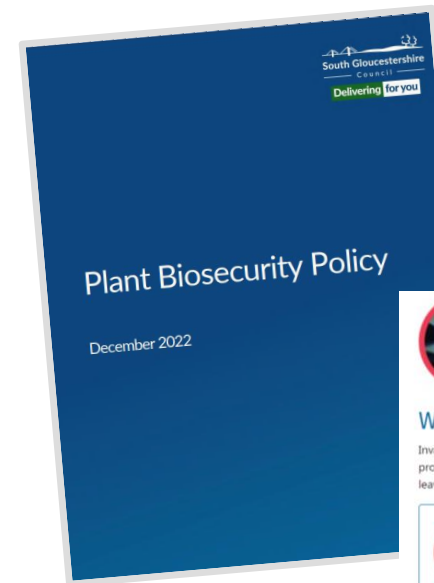
Why was a plant biosecurity policy needed?

- Need for clear information and processes
- Public queries
- Raise awareness



Summary of policy

- Details the need for biosecurity – legislation and duties
- Objectives:
 1. Understand and detect
 2. Prevent
 3. Respond
- Established campaigns:
 - [Check Clean Dry](#) - water based biosecurity
 - [Be Plantwise](#) – land based biosecurity
- Achievable and relevant
- Focussed on plant biosecurity on land owned or managed by SGC



What can I do to help?

Invasive species can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp equipment and clothing. You can help protect the environment and activities you enjoy by keeping your kit free of invasive plants and animals, whenever you leave the water remember to:



Check

Check your equipment, boat, and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.



Clean

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to areas that are damp or hard to access. Use hot water if possible.



Dry

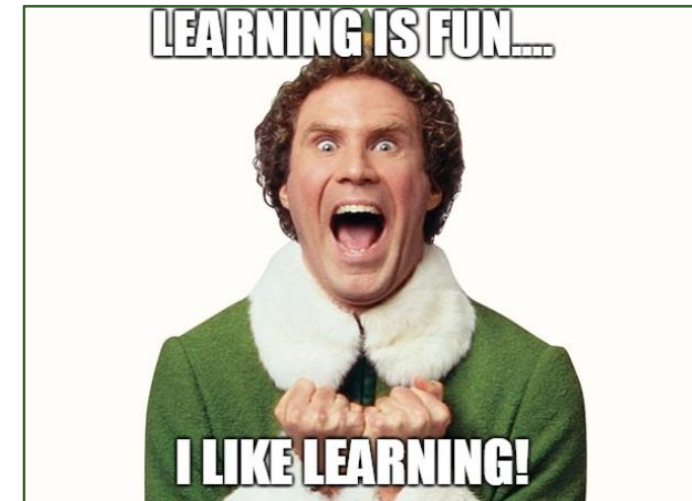
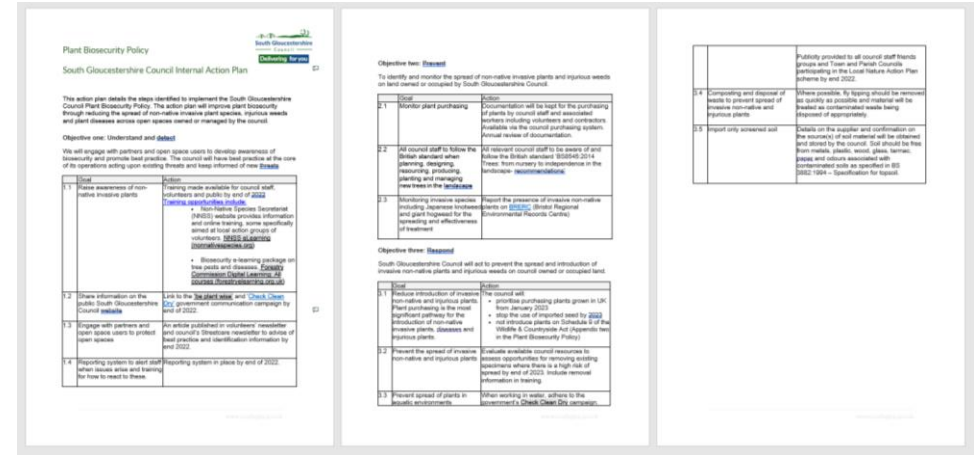
Dry everything for as long as you can before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for over two weeks in damp conditions.



How has the policy changed council working practices?

Practical actions:

- Internal Action Plan with agreed clear actions
- Staff training via e-modules:
 - [Non-native species secretariat e-learning](#)
 - [Forestry Commission](#)
- Mapping and recording of some species
- Clear guidance for the public
- Updates on biosecurity issues e.g. GB non-native species secretariat.



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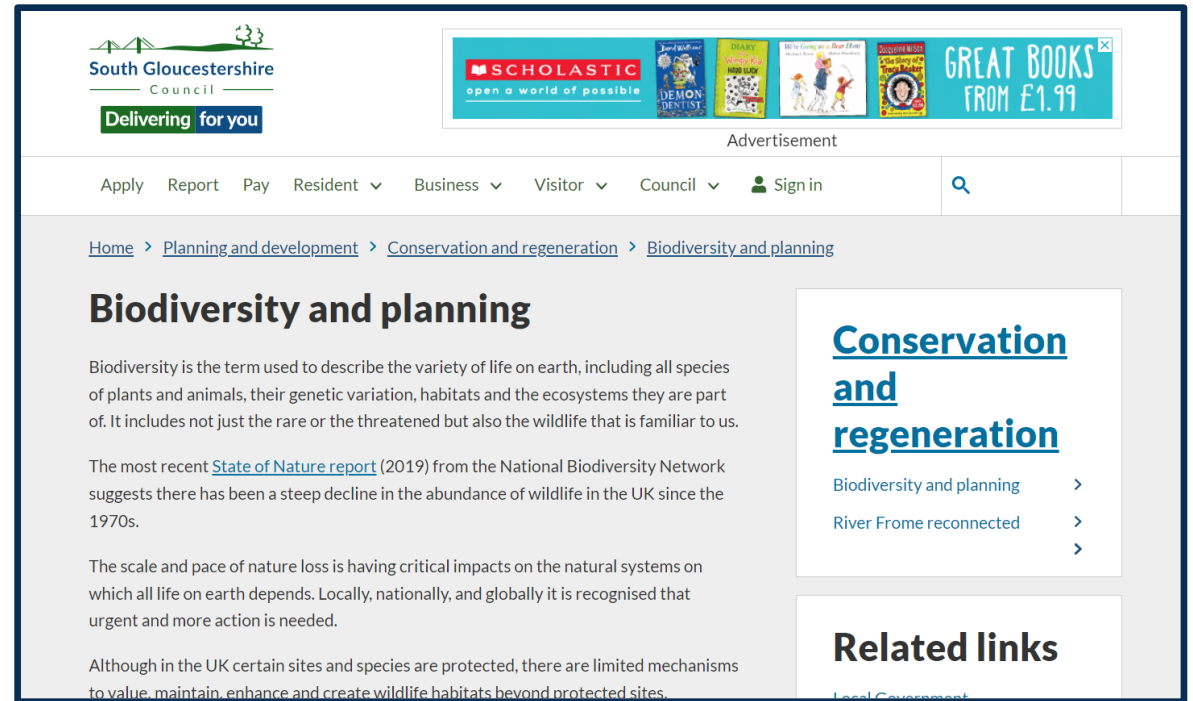
Links within the Council:

- Cross cutting – procurement, grounds, landscape design and planning staff, volunteers and town and parish councils
- Clear process ‘decision tree’ for assessment
- Improved knowledge, awareness and action
- Built into other policies e.g. Procurement, Ragwort, Pesticide and Pollinator Policies.



Raising the profile of plant biosecurity both internally and externally

- Engaging the right people
- Sending it far and wide
- Make it relevant to individuals
- Integrate into strategies and policies
- Part of induction training
- Working with partners



The screenshot shows the website page for Biodiversity and planning. The header includes the South Gloucestershire Council logo and a navigation menu with options: Apply, Report, Pay, Resident, Business, Visitor, Council, and Sign in. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Home > Planning and development > Conservation and regeneration > Biodiversity and planning. The page title is "Biodiversity and planning". The main text defines biodiversity and mentions the State of Nature report (2019). A sidebar on the right contains a "Conservation and regeneration" section with links to "Biodiversity and planning" and "River Frome reconnected", and a "Related links" section with a link to "Local Government".

Next steps



Integrate e-modules into staff training



Further public engagement – on site, social media, key stakeholders, link with national campaigns



Work with trusted partners



Expanding monitoring on our open spaces



Links to future projects e.g. work and potential policy is being scoped with partners regarding invasive species such as mink



a great place to
get outdoors



Thank you

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South Gloucestershire